Northern Notes

by Katie Roundtree, Finance Director

Northern Palm Beach County Improvement District

**Dollars and Sense (of Purpose)**

By official proclamation, on March 10, 2020 the Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners, designated March 16-20 as “Government Finance Professionals Week.” This inaugural Government Finance Professionals Week is sponsored by the Florida Government Finance Officers Association (FGFOA), a professional association founded in 1937 and serving more than 3,300 professionals from state, county and city governments, school districts, colleges and universities, special districts, and private firms.

The FGFOA is dedicated to being a professional resource by providing opportunities through education, networking, leadership and information. The weeklong series of activities sponsored by the FGFOA and all of its member governmental organizations, is aimed at recognizing government finance professionals and the vital services that they provide to our state and to our communities.

“This is a wonderful opportunity to showcase the talents of many professionals who are generally not in the public eye,” said FGFOA President Ken Burke. “We offer congratulations to all of the government finance professionals throughout the state of Florida as we celebrate their accomplishments.”

“The professional finance officer’s knowledge, integrity and dedication make certain that funds entrusted to government are properly budgeted, disbursed and accounted for,” Burke said. “This accountability is a key ingredient to ensure people’s faith in government.”

Northern Palm Beach County Improvement District’s finance department consists of a Finance Director, Budget Manager, Fiscal Specialist/Receptionist, Information System Specialist/Payroll Clerk and two part time interns. Staff is responsible for preparing and managing an approximately $37 million budget for roughly 50 unique Units of Development. Each Unit has its own budget and assessment rate(s). Northern’s tax roll is certified each year with approximately 160 different assessment rates that are applied to each of the 58,000 parcels within the District.

We take our responsibility seriously and that gives us the sense of purpose to ensure the proper accountability of taxpayers’ money. The most recent audit of the Financial Statements of the District was presented to the Board of Supervisors in February and Northern received an unmodified opinion on the fair presentation of the financial statements, the best result possible.

Finally, we are in the process of drafting our 2020/2021 Budget. In an effort to communicate our spending plan to our constituents, Northern’s Staff will hold meetings with unit representatives, including landowners, property managers and homeowner association representatives. The District’s Budget & Banking Committee will carefully review all aspects of the proposed budget. Meetings will be held throughout the late spring and early summer to discuss the budget with the Board of Supervisors. Check our website for our meeting schedule.

NPDES Tip: Please do not put any excess oils, paints or solvents into lakes, canals, or storm drains! They go directly into the ground water supply.